

[Translation]

Inconvenience to Tourists

2083. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the inconvenience caused to the tourists and the occurrence of accidents at Fatehpur Sikri area due to heavy damage of Agra-Jaipur National Highway No.11 between Agra-Fatehpur Sikri and due to heavy traffic at this narrow route;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government of India makes all out efforts to keep all National Highways in a traffic worthy condition within the resources available. As regards National Highway 11, the restoration of damaged road caused due to heavy flood is in progress as per the report received from the State Government.

[English]

Production of AC-I Coaches

2084. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have stopped production of AC-I coaches;

(b) if so, the reasons for attaching combined AC-I, II coaches with Kalka Mail, Poorva Express, Darjeeling Mail, Bombay-Howrah Mail, Amritsar Mail, Coromondal Express and Gitanjali Express;

(c) whether it is a fact that passengers have disliked these combined coaches;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether full AC-I coaches have to be provided to Eastern South Eastern and North Eastern Railway;

(f) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Partial I A.C. coaches have been provided on Kalka Mail and Purva Express in view of increase in upper class accommodatiuon in this sector by Rajdhani Express. While there is no I A.C. coach on Coromondal and Geetanjali Expresses, Full I A.C. coaches are running on Bombay-Howrah and Amritsar Mails. Partial I A.C. coach on Darjeeling Mail has been replaced by a full I A.C. coach w.e.f. 18.11.1996.

(c) and (d) Partial I A.C. coaches have been in use for a very long time. Provision of partial or full I A.C. coaches is dependent on the traffic potential. Patronage of partial I A.C. coaches has been good.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

Railway Connection in West Bengal

2085. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Railways have provided only north-south connection throughout West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether there are demands to provide east-west connection in West Bengal;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this direction to provide such connections between Murshidabad, Nadia, Birbhum and Bankura, Purulia and Midnapore;

(d) whether it is a fact that this connection is urgently needed by constructiong railway lines from Durgapur to Jhargram via Bankura, from Raniganj to Bankura via Mejia and by conversion of barddhaman-Katwa narrow gauge line into Broad gauge;

(e) whether his Ministry propose to give due consideration to connect Eastern Railway line with South Eastern Railway to provide direct link with all district;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if no, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) East West connections are available between Naihati and Bandel and between Chamaragram and New Farakka.

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However, a survey for conversion of Bankura-Damodar Railway with extrn. to Tarakeshwar/Burdamman/Durgapur has been taken up and further consideration of this link would become possible once the survey report becomes available.

(e) and (f). South Eastern Railway and Eastern Railway are already linked to each other.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges

2086. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand for setting up Telephone exchanges at Bandarbela, Sanjan, Panchlai and other places of Balsad district in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is a demand for setting up telephone exchanges at Bandarbela, Panehlar and other place of Balsad District in Gujarat. There is no village named Panchlai in this district. It seems to be a misprint for Panehlar.

At Sanjan a telephone exchange is already working.

(b) it is planned to set up telephone exchanges at Bandarbela and Kakawad during 1996-97. The applicants of Panehlar will be provided connections from the telephone exchange proposed at Krishnapur during 1997.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Misuse of Local Telephone

2087. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any provision exists to check misuse of local telephones as in done in case of STD locking facility by Dynamic locking system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce secret code locking system for local telephones in Delhi and Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the time by which the secret code locking system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Subscribers enjoying dynamic locking facility can check misuse of local calls as well as STD/ISD calls by debarring all types of outgoing calls.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.[English]

Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

2088. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to open post offices in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details there alongwith target fixed therefor; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual Plan Scheme subject to fulfilment of Departmental norms and availability of resources. The policy of the Department is to open post offices in rural areas preferably in Gram Panchayat villages where basic postal facilities do not exist apart from developing colonies and industrial areas. \$ Extra Departmental Post Offices have, however been opened during the year against a target of 2 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu during the current Annual Plan.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections :

2089. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications pending for grant of telephone connections, as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to clear them expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of pending applications as on 31.10.96 are as per statement enclosed.

(b) it is proposed to provide about 24.5 lakh telephone connections by DOT during 1996-97, thus achieving 86 lakh new connections during 8th Plan. The same growth rate is proposed to be maintained in future also.

STATEMENT

Number of pending applications for grant of telephone connection, as on 31.10.1996, State-wise.

Sl.No.	State	Waiting List for Telephone connections
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	215625
2.	Assam	27335
3.	Bihar	57435
4.	Gujarat (Including Dadar, Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli)	284644
5.	Haryana	97297
6.	Himachal Pradesh	46588
7.	J & K	28844
8.	Karnataka	230318
9.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep U.T.)	5903330